

# Pedal Power

The newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists

Issue 39  
May 2004

## AGM and election on June 2nd



Are you somebody who:

- ☞ can participate in running Greenwich Cyclists?
- ☞ has ideas for new rides or events?
- ☞ can help with events and community projects?
- ☞ wants to promote cycling in Greenwich?

If so, then Greenwich Cyclists' needs you.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>; from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the Forum Centre, Trafalgar Rd. Several posts are up for election, including group coordinator, treasurer, secretary and press officer. We need to fill these posts, to enable Greenwich Cyclists to build on what it has already achieved.

So, whether you would like to try your hand at something new, such as writing press releases, chairing meetings, or liaising with schools, or whether you think you have a useful skill to offer, for example PR, Project Management, or simply creating posters, please get in touch with us. We are not looking for experts, cycling or otherwise; we are just looking for volunteers prepared to put in a little time to the club.

Of course, even if you don't intend to stand, we would still like you to come along to vote. But it won't be all business: there'll be a cold buffet and pay bar afterwards, and a chance for club members to get to know each other out of the saddle.

Details of the posts are on our website. If you are interested in any of the posts, or want more information, please contact Hilary Samuels, group coordinator.

## GC in Sutcliff Park

Greenwich Cyclists have been invited to the re-opening of Eltham's Sutcliffe Park, which has been turned into a flood retention area for the elusive Quaggy River. The park has undergone a radical re-landscaping into a wetland habitat, which includes a lake, pathways, board walks, seats, shrubs and flowers, meeting spaces and of course the river, which previously flowed unseen underground.

The ceremony is on 12th June, and kicks-off at 11:30. There will be talks on the scheme, and guided walks of the site. If, like me, you've been wondering what was going on behind the fences and shuttering, this would be the ideal opportunity.

GC hopes to man an info stall and a Dr Bike. If anybody is interested in helping with either of these, please contact Hilary (see below)

## Maintenance Class Full

Greenwich Cyclists' May four-week Maintenance Class is now fully subscribed. The once-a-month sessions were not very popular, so we reverted to the four classes-in-a-month format, and fifteen people booked a place. The advantage of the four session class is that you can build and review your skills, as well as getting to know your classmates better over the four weeks

If you are interested in joining the next maintenance course, send an email to Julian Dobson at [julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk](mailto:julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk). If there is enough interest, we can organise another course in time for your summer cycling.

Just to remind you, the course covers punctures (optional), adjusting gears, brakes, and general maintenance

Contact Greenwich Cyclists via Hilary Samuels (co-ordinator) at [hilary\\_samuels@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary_samuels@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07929 722 973 or write to us at :The Forum @Greenwich (177 Trafalgar Road)

Editor: Julian Dobson [julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk](mailto:julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk)

# London Assembly Green Response

GC canvassed the local London Assembly candidates for their views on cycling policy. We hope to print more of these in June, but this month we are summarising the views of Sue Luxton, who is standing for the Green Party.

Sue stated that she fully supports the LCC cycling manifesto, and pointed out that many of its aims are shared by the Green Party Manifesto.

Some of her priorities for the borough are a 20mph speed limit, more cycle lanes, promoting cycle routes along the river and in the borough's parks. Perhaps the most important, though, is the Green Party's pledge to provide a safe route to school for every London school child by 2008, together with the provision of secure bike



lock-ups at schools, and cycle proficiency training for every child.

On the controversial issue of compulsory cycle helmets for children, Sue admitted that she initially favoured the proposed bill, but has now changed her mind. She fears that the bill will reduce the number of young people cycling, and believes that reducing the speed limit to 20mph will be far more effective way of protecting children from traffic.

Finally, regarding the proposed Thames Gateway, Sue feels that the 6 lane motorway bridge will do nothing to encourage cycling, as it will simply cause extra traffic.

## Rides & Events: Bike Week



See [www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk](http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk) for up-to-date information.  
All rides leave Cutty Sark Gardens (CSG) unless otherwise noted.

Bike week starts on June 12th, and once again Greenwich Cyclists has organised a full calendar of rides.

### May

**Wed 12th: Afterworker:** Eltham Palace. Ride to Eltham Palace and back again. Meet 6.15pm Cutty Sark Gardens. Hilary 07929 722 973.

**Sun 16th: Free cycle training.** Learn to ride a bike or improve your skills with a professional cycle trainer - no previous experience necessary. 10.30-12.30pm and 2-4 pm. Meet on Thames Path behind Waterfront Leisure Centre, Woolwich. Bring your own bike or borrow one from us. Contact Kate 020 8858 1594 to check that the classes are running and to book.

**Tue 18th: Commute to work ride.** Want to start cycling to work but nervous about the traffic or not sure which route to take? Meet 7.30am Cutty Sark Gardens for a ride to London Bridge via the foot tunnel, Isle of Dogs and the City. Jason 07974 155 082

**Wed 19th: Afterworker.** Central London. Meet 6.30 at The Needle, south side of London Bridge for a ride around the centre of London. We'll try to stick to quiet streets. Medium paced ride. Please bring lights. Jason 07974 155 082

**Fri 28th: Critical Mass.** 6pm National Film Theatre. South Bank. (bit political).

### June

**Wed 2nd: Greenwich Cyclists AGM 7:30pm - 9:00pm The Forum, 177 Trafalgar Road. Be There!!!**

**Sat 5 June: Easygoing ride. Sculpture Vultures.** Meet 10am Cutty Sark Gardens or 10.15 in Island Gardens for a ride up to Canary Wharf and a guided tour of more than 20 outdoor works of art. This 6 mile ride is designed for beginners and families, but all welcome. Karen.

### Bike Week

**Sat 12th: Hoo Peninsula.** Ride from Greenwich to the Hoo Peninsula in Kent. Depart Cutty Sark Gardens at

09:00am, or take a train to Higham and meet at Higham Station at 10:30am. Jason 07974 155082

**Sun 13th: Bike Fest @ Trafalgar Square.** Meet Cutty Sark Gardens at 11:30am for an easy-going ride to Trafalgar Square for the Bike Fest. Jason 07974 155082

**Mon 14 June:** Meet and Greet Greenwich Cyclists. Meet at Cutty Sark Gardens 6:30pm for a very easy flat 3 mile ride around The Dome to The Pilot pub. An ideal opportunity to meet Greenwich Cyclists! Jason 07974 155082

**Tue 15th: Lea Valley.** Meet Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich at 19:00 for a ride along the Lea Valley until dusk. *Please bring lights.* Jason 07974 155082

**Wed 16th: Commuter ride. Greenwich - Central London** Assisted commuter ride from Cutty Sark Gardens to Central London along the main roads starting at Cutty Sark Gardens 7:30am for safety in numbers. Jason 07974 155082

**Wed 16th: Commuter ride. London Bridge - Greenwich.** Assisted commuter ride from London Bridge to Greenwich along the main roads starting outside Evans bike shop, Southwark Needle, south side of London Bridge at 5:30pm for safety in numbers. Jason 07974 155082

**Thu 17th: Waterlink Way.** Meet Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich at 6:30pm and head south down the Waterlink Way until dusk. *Please bring lights.* Jason 07974 155082

**Fri 18th: The Red House and Eltham Palace.** Meet Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich at 11:00am for a ride to The Red House in Bexleyheath. This house was the former residence of William Morris and has been recently featured on BBC television. The ride distance should be about eight miles. An optional ride may take place in the afternoon to Eltham Palace: one of the great Art Deco houses in London. Jason 07974 155082